

THE BEHREND BEACON

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Shopping for senior class gift Gift committee seeking student feedback

By Annie Sevin
staff writer

The Senior Class Gift Committee will send an e-mail to students today that asks them to vote on the projects selected for the senior class gift. As of Wednesday, the committee has selected two gifts to vote on. Both will cost about \$5,000 - \$7,500 depending on the amount donated by the senior class.

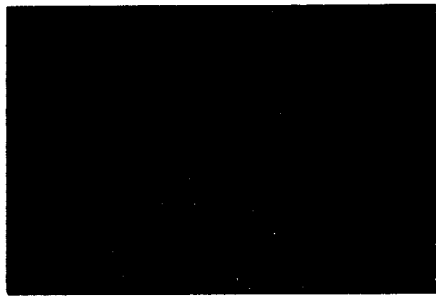
The first gift to choose from is a project that entails helping the Wayfinding and Signage Master Plan fund campus banners for pedestrian walkways. The first set of these banners, the blue banners with the lion paws, has been installed near the Junker Center.

The walkway banners are indicators of campus buildings for new and prospective students and visitors. If the students choose this project, the money the seniors donate will go toward purchasing and installing the banners.

The second gift involves rest and relaxation. If this project is selected as the senior class gift, students will find new benches and tables in front of Senat Hall. The new furniture would be placed in the area around Senat leading from Reed to Dobbins. The number of benches and tables to be added will depend on the amount donated by the senior class.

The e-mail ballots received by students today should be returned by March 29. Then, the Senior Class Gift Committee will verify the votes and announce which project has been selected on April 1.

If seniors have any questions about the gift, they will have the opportunity



to question committee members during the Senior Salute Days in the Wintergarden. Students will be able to look over the project details and make any donation at that time.

Seniors who make contributions for the Class Gift will also have the chance to win prizes by having their name and donation card drawn from a lottery.

"Basically the money we raise for the senior class gift is coming out of an account (out of each seniors' account)...this money is the \$100 deposit that they paid when they first entered college," said Tina Ianni, COMBA 08. "And that was for in case you broke a beaker in chemistry lab or something like that...they can choose to deposit whatever they have in there - the remaining balance."

The gift from the Class of 2005 will be Behrend's third.

"The first gift [from 2002] was the flagpole that was to commemorate...the Behrend graduate who died in 9-11...and then in 2003-2004 it was the Nittany Lion," said Ianni.

According to the Senior Class Gift Committee, the significance of the Senior Class gift is to commemorate the time the students spent at Behrend and to improve the campus and its facilities for future students.

Students rally at Rotunda

By Sarah Weber
staff writer

Twenty-five Behrend students traveled to Harrisburg on Tuesday to rally legislative support for higher education funding. This was the 4th annual "Rally at the Rotunda" to keep state money rolling into the university and tuition costs down.

In the last three years, Penn State tuition has been hiked by 30 percent. The increase in 2004-2005 alone was 11.96 percent.

After last year's rally, Pennsylvania legislators amended the budget to give Penn State the full amount it proposed. However, this year's Pennsylvania funding woes have left questions as to whether Penn State will get the full amount it has asked for.

"I'm going to tell you the truth, I don't know the likelihood of that happening," said Erie County representative Florindo Fabrizio. "This commonwealth is in trouble this year. I don't know we will fill the holes."

State Senator Jane Earl also expressed doubt about the university receiving the money. She noted that Penn State is already getting a 5 percent increase from last year while many state funded programs are getting cut.

The current budget has \$324.2 million in appropriations earmarked for Penn State, \$10 million shy of what the university proposed.

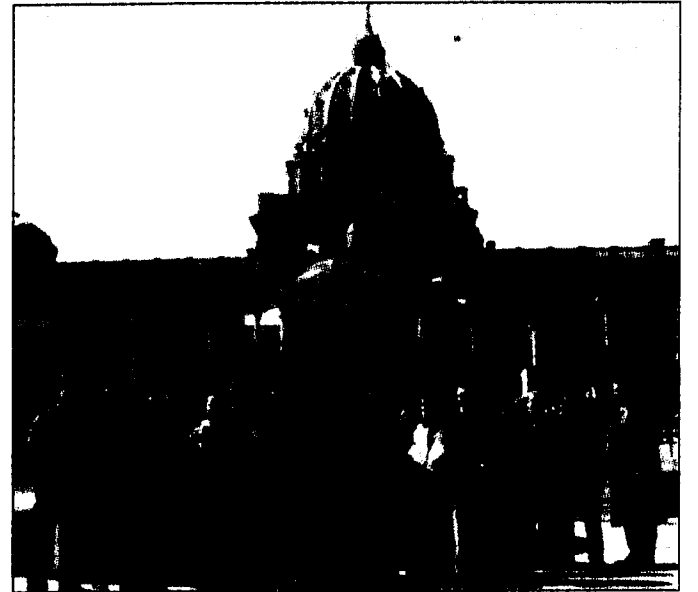
Galen Foulke, University Park student government president, said any money not appropriated by the government would be made up in tuition dollars.

"Penn State lays out a very strict budget," said Foulke. "If we don't get these dollars, our tuition goes up. If we do, it doesn't."

Several Penn State campuses were represented at the rally, but Behrend led the group in student turnout. University Park, which promised last year to match Behrend's numbers, brought seven students to the event. Deepti Soni, Behrend's rally organizer, was pleased with the student support coming from the campus.

"Our biggest focus is to show legislators that students have a voice and we do care," said Soni.

The students who attended acted as a backdrop for a bipartisan group of five legislators who spoke during the 45-minute rally. Representatives Jewell Williams, Steven Cappelli, Michael Sturla, Lynn Herman and John Yudichak all boosted support for funding Penn State and higher edu-



CHRIS HVIZDAK/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Twenty five Behrend students traveled to the capital to rally support for higher education funding.

cation. "We have been systematically under funding higher education in this state," said Sturla.

The representatives emphasized increased funding to keep tuition costs under control. But, they also said that the issue isn't merely about student's being able to pay for college.

"This is about the economic development of Pennsylvania," said Yudichak. Pennsylvania is going through what Williams called a "brain drain." Young people educated in Pennsylvania are moving to other states after graduation. The representatives said that giving higher education priority and providing opportunities for young people in Pennsylvania are the keys to reversing this trend.

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Shaw explores ethics of joke-telling

By Annie Sevin
staff writer

Dr. Joshua Shaw, assistant professor of Philosophy, will speak for the Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium on March 24 in the Smith Chapel Living Room from noon until 1:30 p.m. He will be discussing the "Taboo Topics and the Ethics of Joke-telling."

Faculty members from Humanities and Social Sciences department started this speaker series (the Colloquium) this past January. The faculty members wanted to share their individual research with other faculty members and students.

According to him, the talk will be "looking at the focus analysis of jokes as rhetorical figures and what is required to get that joke." He will probe the reasons why people find hilarity in questionable jokes and whether or not it is ethical to tell certain types of jokes.

"One of my areas of interest is ethics and another is the philosophy of art and the theories of literature and what interests me the most is the intersection of the two," says Shaw.

He chose joke telling because it was a lighter subject matter than he had looked at before. "About a year ago I wrote about some bleak films and literature - I wanted to try working on something lighter," said Shaw.

In general, Shaw says he's interested in the ethics of humor. He also says that while looking at the literature on this subject, he found it to be incomplete. He says he found "there were certain kinds of jokes or certain kinds of humor that we find morally questionable...jokes about the Holocaust or September 11...so, the subject of the talk is 'what is it about that kind of joke that bothers

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Student, staff member improve PSU's right to know

By Erin Ahlgren
staff writer

Worker and Community Right to Know is a web-based training system developed by property protection guard David Leshner and student employee Doug Hilderhoff. It will replace the 30-year-old videotape system and will eventually be used at University Park.

The Worker and Community Right to Know Act was enacted in 1984 to provide information about hazardous substances in the workplace and in the environment.

As stated in the Employee Workplace Notice, "public sector employees (including state local government agencies, public schools, and public universities- Penn State) not covered by the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard must provide an annual education and training program to employees exposed to hazardous substances."

In other words, Pennsylvania citizens have the "right to know" about chemical hazards that are present in their workplace. The training program may be presented either in written form or in training sessions. The web-based training system developed by Leshner and Hilderhoff does just that.

According to David Leshner, property protection guard, chemistry students at Behrend are also made aware of proper safety in the lab and informed about the Right to Know training system by their professors. And before they are allowed to participate in lab experiments, they must pass a lab safety quiz.

The Right to Know training system by Leshner outlines the rights of Behrend employees and students under the Right to Know Act. The system also states the seven provisions of the act, including the seventh which gives you the right to refuse to work with hazardous substances if the university "fails to provide you with a Material Safety Data Sheet or fail to furnish proof of a diligent effort to obtain the MSDS."

The MSDS, which is available to you at Police and

Safety on campus, contains information on health hazards, chemical ingredients, physical characteristics, control measures and special handling procedures for all hazardous substances on campus.

As stated in the training program, there are some exemptions to the Right to Know Act. Chemicals used in research, teaching and testing laboratories, or chemical storage areas are not required to be on the list of hazardous substances and substances bought for personal use or consumption such as foodstuffs, cosmetics, tobacco and prescriptions are also not required to be listed.

The web-based training system also explains the MSDS, general classes of chemicals, possible effects from exposure and further contact information regarding your right to know.

Not only is Penn State University obligated to pro

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LUCK OF THE IRISH



DANIELLE FAULKNER/BEHREND BEACON
St. Patrick's day enthusiast Jay O'Reilly shows his spirit and enjoys music performed by the Borealis String Quartet on Wednesday at noon.